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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
UPTON-UPON-SEVERN

REPORT

OF

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector

for the Year ended

31st DECEMBER, 1953



RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF UPTON-UPON-SEVERN

Report for the Year 1953

To:—

The Chairman and Members of the District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

In presenting my Annual Report for 1953 I have to state that no very startling change has taken place anywhere.

It has been a year of detailed work on well defined lines. There is a continuous need for supervision of circumstances in which we live. This is carried out by your Medical Officer of Health in his observation and investigation of the condition of the individual, and by your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Cromwell, in his constant observation of the environment in the broadest sense in which we live. We are continually correlating these two processes in order to obtain an overall view of the needs of the population to present to you to take such action as may be required. The reports that are given, although signed by one or other of us, may often represent the work of both.

During the year we have concentrated on the possible sources of infection that exist, or may exist, in milk. 132 samples were collected from farms, dairies, milk rounds, etcetera, and subjected to biological and bacteriological testing. No tubercle bacilli were grown from milk collected in this way, though similar sampling which has taken place in Malvern and routine sampling by the County Authority demonstrated infectious tuberculosis in two cases on farms in the Rural District. The ring test for brucella abortus was, however, positive in 36 cases and the organisms cultured in 7 cases. This investigation into contagious abortion was undertaken specifically in order to determine the value of the ring test and other methods in the field as a practical measure for the control of the safety of milk. The use of the live vaccines makes the identification of infectious milk a very slow and difficult procedure. Cases of abortus

fever or undulant fever in man are not notifiable. I am, however, usually informed of the occurrence of these cases and have noted between one and three cases each year in the Malvern and Upton districts. The diagnosis in the human being is extremely difficult for technical reasons and there is a strong indication that only a few of the cases actually occurring are diagnosed. It is likely that there is a great deal of temporary ill health due to this cause which will only be diagnosable with improvement in diagnostic method. Meanwhile, there is but one way of ensuring that the germ of tuberculosis, of abortus or undulant fever, and certain other illnesses is not brought to us in milk—that is by heat treatment or pasteurisation. It cannot be stressed too strongly that no other method is certain. Results indicate that brucella abortus is a very much more widespread germ amongst cattle than is usually realised.

There were five cases of poliomyelitis of which four occurred within a month at the end of the year, and all in houses within three miles of one another. As usual, no direct contact was found to exist between any of these cases though in three of them intermediate contact was proven. That such a small outbreak should occur in the winter months is a reminder that we are likely to have poliomyelitis recurring from time to time for many, many years, unless some effective form of vaccine is devised.

I should also like to draw your attention to the table on Page 3 showing causes of death. It should be noted that out of 200 deaths only 4 were due to tuberculosis while 121 were primarily due to disease of the heart or arteries. Of the 30 cases of cancer, 3 were due to cancer of the lung in males between the ages of 52 and 62. At the beginning of the century tuberculosis claimed as many victims as diseases of the heart and arteries, and cancer of the lungs was sufficiently rare to be regarded as a medical curiosity.

The "Southern Scheme" of water supplies covering Bushley, Corse Lawn, Longdon, Eldersfield, Berrow and Pendock was completed during the year. One of the most pressing needs now remaining is that of piped water supplies at Kempsey.

In conclusion, may I express my gratitude for the co-operation and help that I have received from Mr. Cromwell and from your Surveyor, Mr. Firth.

(Signed) H. F. GREEN,
Medical Officer of Health.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Acreage	...	...	...	...	...	...	50,947
Number of inhabited houses, according to the rate books	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,901
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£69,238
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£272

Resident Population (Registrar General's Estimate)	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,390
Birth Rate (per 1,000 of estimated resident population)	...	...	...	...	...	...	18.9
Still-Birth Rate (per 1,000 live and still-births)	...	...	...	...	...	...	9.6
Death Rate (per 1,000 of estimated resident population)	...	...	...	...	...	...	10.6
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	...	...	...	...	...	...	9.7

Comparable data for England and Wales, 1953.

Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	15.5
Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.4
Infantile Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	26.8

DEATHS

CAUSES OF DEATH (ALL AGES)

					M.	F.	Total
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	...	...	...	...	4	—	4
Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	—	4	4
Cancer—all forms	...	...	...	...	14	16	30
Leukaemia	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	9	6	15
Diseases of the heart and arteries	...	...	...	...	51	55	106
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	5	4	9
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	—	2	2
Hyperplasion of prostate	...	...	...	...	4	—	4
Violence	...	...	...	...	2	3	5
All other causes	...	...	...	...	8	8	16
					—	—	—
					99	101	200
					—	—	—

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Services.

Chemical analysis is carried out, as before, by arrangement with the County Laboratory at the County Buildings. Bacteriological examinations are now carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Worcester Royal Infirmary.

Clinics.

There are none provided by this Authority.

The County Council have provided by local arrangement with Voluntary Committees, for Infant Welfare Centres to be held at the following places:—

Upton-upon-Severn ...	1st and 3rd Tuesdays in the month at 2.30 p.m.
Welland	2nd and 4th Fridays in the month at 2 p.m.
Hanley Swan	3rd Wednesday in the month at 2.30 p.m.
Kempsey	1st Thursday in the month at 2.30 p.m.
Longdon	2nd Tuesday in the month at 2 p.m.

Clinics are also provided at Worcester and Malvern under arrangements made by the County Council, for Maternity and Eye Cases.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Visits to premises for investigation	34
Premises disinfected after notifiable diseases	11
Premises disinfected after other diseases	4

Tuberculosis.

At the end of 1953 the tuberculosis register contained the names of 47 males and 51 females, who normally reside in the district.

During the year 11 new cases were notified, 10 on account of pulmonary tuberculosis and 1 because of the presence of the disease in part of the body other than the lungs.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1953

DISEASE.	All Ages	Under 1 year	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	5-9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.	15-19 yrs.	20-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-64 yrs.	65+	No ag Specified
SCARLET FEVER ...	8					1	5	1		1				
PNEUMONIA ...	7						1				1	3	1	1
MEASLES ...	223	5	11	24	30	33	110	1	1	3	1	3		1
WHOOPING COUGH	75	4	6	9	8	7	37	1				1		2
DYSENTERY ...	5			1			1			1			2	
FOOD POISONING ...	5		1				1	1		1		1		
POLIOMYELITIS (non-Paralytic)	1									1				
POLIOMYELITIS (Paralytic)	4			1						2		1		

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION CARRIED OUT DURING 1953.

	Ages 1-5 years				Ages 5-14 years		Total for Year
Children who received a full course of Primary Im-							
munisation	119	26		145
Children who received a Re-inforcing Injection			—	130		130

Immunisation in relation to Child Population.

Number of Children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1953

Age at 31.12.53. <i>i.e.</i> Born in Year	Under 1 1953	1 1952	2 1951	3 1950	4 1949	5-9 1944-48	10-14 1939-43	Total under 15
NUMBER IMMUNISED 	6	97	109	139	143	866	804	2,164

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

for the Year ended 31st December, 1953

To :—

The Chairman and Members of the District Council.

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present a report of the work of the Sanitary Inspector for the year ended December, 1953.

Summary of Visits and Inspections.

General Complaints	...	...	...	...	...	84
Drainage inspections—supervision of work	...	...	...	...	...	151
Drain Tests	...	...	...	...	...	54
Improvement Grants—Housing Act, 1949	...	...	...	...	...	81
Visits to temporary dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	18
Visits to Hop Pickers' dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	5
Investigations of Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	3
Inspection of work in progress	...	...	...	...	...	173
Inspection of dairies, cowsheds, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	46
Visits in connection with Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	34
Inspections under the Petroleum Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	34
Inspection of Cafes, Kitchens and Public Houses	...	...	...	...	...	26
Inspection of Food premises	...	...	...	...	...	37
Inspections under P.H. (Meat) Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	42
Miscellaneous visits and revisits	...	...	...	...	...	347
Verminous premises fumigated	...	...	...	...	...	3

No. of samples submitted for analysis :—

Water	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	167
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	132

Factory and Workshops Acts.

No. of premises inspected	...	...	...	...	19
No. of notices served	...	{ Cleanliness		...	Nil
	...	{ Sanitary Accom.		...	Nil

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Bakehouses.

No. of Bakehouses in area	...	...	...	...	7
No. of inspections	...	...	...	...	11
No. of notices served	...	{ Cleanliness		...	Nil
		{ Sanitary Accom.		...	Nil

Ice Cream.

There are no Manufacturers of Ice Cream in the district.

No. of Retailers	...	...	...	...	27
No. of Inspections of premises	...	...	...	...	10

Food condemned as being unfit for Human Consumption.

Pork	...	...	...	...	70 lbs.	2 ozs.
Mutton	...	...	...	...	6 lbs.	11 ozs.
Canned Meat	...	...	...	...	9 tins	
Irish Stew	...	...	...	...	2	„
Gammon	...	...	...	...	1 tin	
Canned Fish	...	...	...	...	2 tins	
Soup	...	...	...	...	5	„
Peas	...	...	...	...	12	„
Beans	...	...	...	...	3	„
Tomatoes	...	...	...	...	11	„
Carrots	...	...	...	...	1 tin	
Canned Fruit	...	...	...	...	11 tins	
Milk	...	...	...	...	5	„
Savoury Ducks	...	...	...	...	48	
Black Puddings	...	...	...	...	8 lbs.	

WATER SAMPLING

Private Wells.

No. of Samples submitted for Analysis	...	...	...	...	146
Result—Satisfactory	...	...	...	...	77
Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	69
No. of wells cleaned and repaired as a result of informal action	...	...	...	...	8
No. of wells closed	...	...	...	...	Nil

Swimming Baths.

No. of privately owned swimming baths open to public	...	...	...	...	1
No. of Samples submitted for analysis	...	...	...	...	2
Result—Satisfactory	...	...	...	...	2
Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	—

HOUSING

No. of houses erected during the year	...	...	...	75
(a) by Local Authority	...	...	...	57
(b) by other bodies or persons	...	...	...	18

Table showing number of houses completed by the Local Authority as part of the Post War programme:

Year	Houses Completed
1946	10
1947	27
1948	53
1949	8
1950	46
1951	32
1952	58
1953	57

HOUSING ACT, 1949

Improvement Grants.

Twenty-one applications for Improvement Grants were received during the year.

Applications considered by Local Authority		Applications submitted to Regional Office of Ministry		
Approved	Rejected	Approved	Rejected	Under consideration at end of year
17	4	11	—	6

Although the number of applications received was an increase on the figure for the previous year, there appears to be a reluctance on the part of many owners of property to apply for the grant.

The fact that the maximum rent at which the property can be let is controlled for a period of twenty years, does not appear to be a deterrent, but opinions have been expressed that the requirements stipulated by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government are too stringent.

Further, the fact that the ceiling height may be slightly less than the 7 ft. minimum often rules out a building which, in all other respects, complies with the requirements.

If more elasticity could be used when dealing with the applications, and thus treat each case on its merits instead of applying a fixed hard and fast rule, it would enable more owners to take advantage of the provisions and thereby assist in improving the general housing conditions of the district.

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS

Public Health Acts.

No. of premises visited	23
No. of defects or nuisances discovered	31
No. of defects or nuisances abated	25
No. of notices served—Informal	21
No. of notices served—Statutory	1
Legal Proceedings Instituted	1

Housing Acts.

No. of premises inspected	21
No. of premises unfit for habitation	17
No. of premises not in all respects fit	4
No. of premises rendered fit	4
No. of premises in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	3
No. of premises in respect of which Undertakings were accepted	3

SEWERAGE

Sewers and disposal works are provided and maintained in the following parishes:—

Upton-upon-Severn	Pumping Scheme
Kempsey	ditto
Callow End	ditto
Earls Croome	ditto
Hanley Castle	Gravitation
Hanley Swan	ditto
Powick	ditto

A number of smaller schemes dealing with sewage from small groups of houses are also in existence.

REFUSE COLLECTION

Area served ...	...	...	...	...	Whole area about 85% of properties.
Service ...	...	...	...	...	Fortnightly in most areas.
Disposal ...	...	...	...	...	To three tips.

Refuse collection is carried out by direct labour and is under the control of the Council's Surveyor.

RODENT CONTROL

We are fortunate in retaining the services of Miss Clements for this work.

A free treatment is given in respect of private dwellings, but a charge based upon time and material is made in the case of business premises.

No. of infestations treated	...	...	...	...	120
Private houses ...	...	...	...	...	70
Business premises	...	...	...	...	42
No. of other infestations	...	...	...	...	8
No. of complaints received	...	...	...	...	36

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) E. CROMWELL,

Sanitary Inspector.

